

Power Generating

Inner Generation

## POWER PLANTS

Two major power plants have been operated in the Midway area in addition to the Heber Light and Power Company in which Midway owns one-eighth interest. The first plant was developed in Snake Creek Canyon near the turn of the Century by President Joseph R. Murdock.

Realizing the potential of electric power, Pres. Murdock, along with several others took an option on property owned by Bishop Jacob Probst at the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon. During 1907 and 1908 they surveyed several possible plant sites, and finally chose one that they felt would best utilize water flow out of the canyon. Work was begun under the direction of Bishop Probst, with John H. (Jack) Buehler, John A. Sulser, Samuel (Sam) Ritchie and Gottlieb Buehler employed for the project.

Even though this venture failed, the idea persisted, and Jesse Knight  
IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

589

who organized the Knight Investment Company later took over the project with the idea of supplying electric power to mines and industries he owned in the area. Work on the plant resumed in the Spring of 1909 and provided employment to many Midway men. The plant was ready for production in April, 1910, and a power line was strung to the Snake Creek Tunnel and another to Park City. Later lines ran to American Fork Canyon.

About 1912, Utah Power and Light Co., successor to the Knight Investment Company, took over the plant, and has maintained it since as a booster station. In recent years a line has been run from the plant to the Olmstead Plant at the mouth of Provo Canyon, connecting Snake Creek with all sections of the UP&L system.

Superintendents of Snake Creek's power plant have included John W. Orrock, Harvey Stone and William Breton. Operators have included Nathaniel Baldwin, William Blood, John A. Sulser, Cyril Orrock, Henry S. Coleman, Vern Probst, LaVon Hair, Earl Willetts, Bert Scott, Claude Cornwall, Shield Montgomery and Robert Jarvis.

John A. Sulser, Conrad Gertsch and Vern Probst were maintenance men for the plant.

The other plant near Midway is located at Deer Creek Dam and was placed in operation on February 17, 1958. Part of the multi-million dollar Deer Creek Project which began in 1938, the power has two generators with capacities of 2,500 kilowatts each. Some 27,000,000 kilowatt hours are produced yearly at the plant.

came some \$90,000 worth of high grade ore. This mine was one of Midway's largest producers. Henry T. Coleman of Midway directed the work in these mines, and some who were employed included John Morton, Jerry Springer, Nate Springer, George Schear, John A. Sulser, Carson Smith, David J. Wilson, Nymphus Watkins, Jacob Kummer, Frank Greenwell, Charles Alexander, Adam Empey, Brigham Hamilton and William John Wilson.

The St. Louis-Vasser claims were located by Judge A. C. Hatch, Henry T. Coleman and Samuel Hair, along with the West St. Louis and Merle V. groups of mines. About 1900 they sold their interests to a group of mining men from Salt Lake City, including Robert Walker and Colonel Shaunessy. Under new management the mines employed several Midway men and began working on the St. Louis-Vassar Incline Shaft. Charles Buhler had charge of the work, but the company ran out of money and the property was turned back to the locaters.

Another large operation that hired many local men included the Steam Boat Tunnel, later known as Mountain Lake Tunnel. Charles Buhler was foreman of the Steam Boat Tunnel and William Witt of the Mountain Lake Tunnel. Many who worked in these mines included Henry T. Coleman, John Buehler, Nathaniel Baldwin, Ernest Kohler, Charles Bigler, William Bigler, Samuel Ritchie, Fred Sonderegger, John A. Sulser and Hyrum Shelton, and two women who were cooks, Mrs. Mary Bigler Kohler and Mrs. Bertha Sonderegger Wilson.

Others who worked at the Mountain Lake, or Jesse Knight operation, were Elijah Watkins, Joseph Hair, George Bonner, Charles Bonner, George Schear, Joseph Gelli, Charles Mitchell. Joseph Hair was killed and Elijah Watkins blinded in an explosion in this mine.

Later the Daily Judge Mining Company and the Knight Investment Company ran the Snake Creek Tunnel as a joint venture in 1910. Many who found employment here included Ernest Dayton, (Jay) John Abplanalp, Frank Abplanalp, Michael Abplanalp, Alonzo Abplanalp, John Burt, Sam Ritchie, Fred Sonderegger, Thomas Kummer, Henry S. Coleman, Alvah Ross, Morris Watkins, John H. Buehler, George Bonner, Charlie Bonner, William Bigler, Charles Bigler, Charles Mitchell, Charles Whistler, Eli Korah, Joseph Schoney, Earl Hardy, Emil Nelson, William Hancock, and cooks, Mrs. Alice Mohlman and Mrs. Ella O'Neil Hancock Whistler.

A shaft known as the J. I. C. was sunk on Bonanza Flat and operated for a short time. Jerry Springer and Alonzo Alder were some who worked on this shaft. "The Montreal" was also operated in the early 1900's, and provided work for the Alder brothers, Alfred, William and James, as well as Peter Abplanalp. The "Lone Hill" was operated by Ira Clark, Nate Springer, Alfred Alder, Jacob Kummer, Alonzo Alder and Peter Abplanalp.

The "John the Revelator" mine was first opened by Henry T. Cole-

man for the Southern Tier Mining Company, but later discontinued. It was worked at different times by lessors who included Sam Hair, Monroe Hair, Nephi Huber, Johnny Shelton, Dale Coleman, Martin Huber and Robert Grolinski.

Other claims in the Midway area that were worked at one time or another included The Big Four, Balsam Grove, Heber Cities, Lone Pine, Pine Cone, Boulder Basin, Blue Bird, Silver Island Lake and Rudie.

William (Billie) Bogan who had considerable interests in the Park City area, which he later sold, also located some claims in the Snake Creek area. He worked these for many years until he became too old. Fred Hanney worked for many years for Mr. Bogan, as did John A. Sulser.

Another "old-timer" who spent most of his life at claims in the White Pines was Henry Tattersall. He wore a long, white flowing beard, and was always seen without a hat coming from his diggings or from the springs with pails of water.

Jack McCarthy, Levi Hancock and others worked claims in Dutch Canyon, while "Brig" Hamilton, James (Jim) Hamilton and William John Wilson worked Blue Bird. A Mr. Kilkennie claimed Horse Shoe Bend, and Nate C. Springer, Alfred Alder and Cornelius Springer worked their claim, Silent Shade. William Hackett and Barney Kennah had claims near the divide at Brighton and Nephi Huber and George Wilson worked the Rudie claim.

At one time Ephraim Mohlman and George Watkins leased the Mountain Lake mine and shipped a few tons of ore. Orvil Scott, Wilford Van Wagonen, Sidney Epperson and William (Billie) Johnston also had claims in Snake Creek and Dutch Canyon. Mr. Johnston first claimed the area where the New Park Mine now is located. He held the claims for many years, though many advised him to give them up. His judgment and faith were later vindicated when the New Park was brought in on his claims.

Benjamin (Bennie) Clark also worked claims in Sid's Canyon and Lime Canyon, but the operation was limited.

Mining has aided Midway's economy in many ways during the years. Many have succeeded in working claims while others sold produce or other goods to those who came to work in the mines. LeRoy Buehler, William Larsen, William Haueter, Joseph Bergener, Charles Buehler, Joseph Buehler and Carl Hanney made mining their career and achieved in their chosen fields.

Perhaps the two most successful Midway men in mining outside the area were John H. Buehler and Henry S. Coleman. Both got their starts in Midway mines and later rose to prominent positions in Utah and Nevada mining firms.